

I normally like to meet with those joining OCIA at the beginning of year, and again right before the Rites of Initiation. That didn't happen last year. The biggest reason for that was that it took five months just to get through initial meetings with the almost 45 adults, and with children and teens we had about 60 all together. Which was awesome.

We all remember the changes in the translation of the Mass from 15 years ago. The International Committee on the English Language has been revising all of the rites. The most recent was the Order of the Anointing of the Sick, which went into effect at Easter. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) was retranslated as well, and is now known as the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), more accurately also describing this longer journey by which individuals 7 years old and older gather for prayer, formation, and community during the year ahead as we seek to come to know and follow Jesus Christ more closely. It's more than just one rite at the end.

It's always a joy to hear the stories about what brings people to the Catholic Church. Some come as they are dating, engaged or married to a Catholic and felt called to share in the fullness of Christ themselves. We had a former atheist who was coming for the Eucharist. There was the homeschooling mom who came across the liturgical year. Some watched Catholic videos online to help inform their decision. It was amazing that a few had already read the Catechism. The paths by which the Holy Spirit is working in people's lives are incredible. And yet very often, it's rare that I hear that a Catholic actually invited them, and some don't even know a practicing Catholic. We unfortunately often forsake the mission of Christ given to us, to share the Good News, to help others encounter Jesus Christ. We withhold from others and keep silent about path of salvation and the way to Heaven, that those we know and love may share in this gift.

On September 3rd at 7PM at MQP, we are having an Inquiry Night for the OCIA process. Invite someone you know, and come with them, for our general information night. Share the joy of our faith. Come and see!

Visit <https://sjcissaquah.org/become-catholic> for more information or to register for OCIA. OCIA sessions will begin later in the month and are held on Tuesday evenings at St. Joseph and Thursday evenings at Mary, Queen of Peace, and individuals are free to participate in either group.

And if you are a fully initiated Catholic, and willing to serve as a sponsor for someone this year, we are always looking for individuals to accompany our individuals in OCIA, to share your own faith and encourage them in their journey. Reach out to mwilliams@sjcissaquah.org if you are interested.